



The Helena Public Schools educate, engage, and empower each student to maximize his or her individual potential with the knowledge, skills and character essential to being a responsible citizen and life-long learner.

Board of Trustees – Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 4, 2020

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Committee

Luke Muszkiewicz, Chair (excused absence)
Siobhan Hathhorn, Vice Chair
Sarah Sullivan, Past Chair
John McEwen, Trustee
Libby Goldes, Trustee

Others

Tyler Ream, Superintendent
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
Stacy Collette, Human Resources Director
Joslyn Davidson, Curriculum & Instruction Administrator
Janelle Mickelson, Business Services Administrator
Tim McMahon, Activities Director
Pat Boles, Technology Administrator
Jane Shawn, HEA President

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Vice Chair, Siobhan Hathhorn, called the meeting to order at 11:04am.

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were requested to the meeting agenda.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were offered.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the June 9, 2020, Executive Committee meeting were approved.

V. REVIEW OF AUGUST 4, 2020, BOARD WORK SESSION AGENDA

Dr. Ream described the purpose of the work session as an opportunity to present the 20-21 Opening Plan to the public. He anticipated several planning team leads in attendance to answer questions.

Ms. Hathhorn asked if Dr. Ream would be presenting the phased plan only or if he would include information on what phase the district would be in the fall. Dr. Ream answered he would present the phased plan as it applied to the entire year. He anticipated walking through how the plan was developed, provide an overview of what each phase would look like, and include details like the digital learning piece, a rolling start definition, and some FAQs. He added the planning teams' intentions had been to create a collective plan for the school year: a foundation for all decisions to be made over the entire year.

Ms. Hathhorn requested the family survey data be included in the presentation. Dr. Ream answered it had not been included in the presentation but was in the plan.

Dr. Ream addressed the logistics of the work session: a blended format intended to provide as much opportunity to participate as possible. The environment would include an Owl Pro Meetings camera for trustees, a Zoom meeting, and in-person attendance. He added district leadership would be on hand to enforce virtual meeting protocols.

Ms. Sullivan asked if trustees would be able to tell when people were raising their hands to comment. Mr. Boles answered Zoom allowed meeting participants to raise their hands and district staff could allow attendees to make comments if they wished. He recommended accepting public comment first from in-person attendees followed by virtual attendees.

Ms. Hathhorn asked the committee if they would accept comments on agenda items even though it was not procedure. Ms. Sullivan thought trustees should; it was their one opportunity to gauge how the community was feeling. Dr. Ream agreed, adding there was a single item on the agenda, which was atypical. He said attendees would be surprised if they were not allowed to comment. Ms. Hathhorn voiced her agreement. She asked if the board should limit the number of minutes for each comment. Dr. Ream agreed, adding someone would moderate them.

VI. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Ms. Hathhorn asked for additional board comments. Ms. Sullivan asked if there would be an update on Montana High School Association (MSHA) discussions. Dr. Ream said he would provide an update in his report on the discussions as of the previous day.

Ms. Sullivan asked if schools were closed in the fall, had there been any discussion on small groups for special education students. Dr. Ream answered they were looking at how to best provide for students' needs regardless of school closure. He added he hadn't seen public perception of FAPE not being provided to all students. Ms. Hathhorn asked if they could extend the school year under the same model. Dr. Ream answered it would be supplementary in nature – additive – so it wouldn't be a violation of FAPE.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25am.